

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending. In the Office Action dated January 20, 2006, the Examiner took the following action: (1) rejected claims 1-3, 5-7 and 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,689,661 to Hayashi ("Hayashi"); (2) rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi; (3) rejected claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,862 to Wilson ("Wilson"); (4) rejected claims 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Wilson; and (5) allowed claims 13-38.

Although applicant does not agree that any of the prior art rejections are justified, applicant is canceling all of the rejected claims to facilitate an early allowance of this application. All of the claims remaining in the application, *i.e.*, claims 13-38, are therefore allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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Fee Transmittal Sheet (+copy)

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